

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: ITALIAN -BULGARIAN ACCORD ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF: SOFIA 862 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ITALY AND BULGARIA HAVE SIGNED TEN YEAR AGREEMENT
ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.
THE ACCORD IS LIMITED TO DEFINING GENERAL AREAS OF COOPERATION
AND ESTABLISHING A MIXED COMMISSION TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS. NEW ACCORD IS ONE OF A SERIES OF LONG TERM FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENT WHICH ITALY HAS CONCLUDED WITH VARIOUS EAST-EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES. THE AGREEMENT REAFFIRMS THE DESIRE OF BOTH PARTIES
TO CONTINUE THEIR COLLABORATION AND, THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT
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OF A MIXED COMMISSION, CREATES A NEW FORUM FOR ITALIAN-BULGARIAN

CONTACTS.

2. THE ITALIAN-BULGARIAN TEN YEAR AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SIGNED IN SOFIA DURING ITALIAN FONMIN ALDO MORO'S VISIT MAY 26-28 (REFTEL) WAS DRAFTED IN LATE JANUARY 1974 DURING VISIT TO ITALY OF A LARGE BULGARIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER ALEXANDER DIMITROV, CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN STATE COMMISSION FOR METEOROLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION.

3. THE NEW ACCORD IS ONE OF A SERIES OF LONG TERM FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION WHICH ITALY HAS CONCLUDED WITH VARIOUS EAST-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ALREADY SIGNED ARE SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH EAST GERMANY, RUMANIA, POLAND AND HUNGARY. SIMILAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR HAS BEEN DRAFTED BUT NOT YET SIGNED.

4. ACCORDING TO GOI SOURCES, THE NEW ITALIAN-BULGARIAN TEN YEAR ACCORD A) CALLS FOR INCREASED COOPERATION IN THE CHEMICAL, PETROCHEMICAL, IRON-WORKING, METALLURGICAL, ELECTRONIC, ELECTROCHEMICAL, AGRICULTURAL, FOOD, TEXTILE AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS, B) STATES THAT EACH COUNTRY WILL OFFER THE OTHER THE MOST FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING COOPERATION PROJECTS AND, WITHIN THE REGULATIONS EXISTING IN EACH COUNTRY, FOR FINANCING THESE PROJECTS, AND C) ESTABLISHES A MIXED COMMISSION OF BULGARIAN AND ITALIAN OFFICIALS TO MEET YEARLY TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF BULGARIAN-ITALIAN COOPERATION.

5. AN MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT DURING THE JANUARY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DIMITROV DELEGATION THERE STRONG EFFORT ON BULGARIAN SIDE TO COMMIT ITALY TO A VERY SPECIFIC TEN-YEAR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION PROGRAM RATHER THAN A FRAMEWORK ACCORD. HOWEVER, INV VIEW OF EEC RESTRICTIONS AGAINST BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS, ITALIANS HAVE INSISTED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LONG TERM COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BE FRAMEWORK IN NATURE. ALSO, TO PROTECT ITALIAN-EEC COMMITMENTS, AGREEMENT CONTAINS CAVEAT THAT MOST FAVORABLE FINANCING CONDITIONS BE WITHIN EXISTING REGULATIONS OF EACH COUNTRY (ABOVE). AGREEMENT ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTAINS CLAUSE STATING THAT THE ACCORD DOES NOT PREJUDICE ANY EXISTING TREATY OR AGREEMENT BETWEEN EITHER SIGNATORY OR ANY THIRD PARTY. (LATTER IS REFERRED TO BY MFA OFFICIALS AS THE "ROME TREATY" CLAUSE).

6. COMMENT: ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ITALY AND BULGARIA IS ALREADY WELL DEVELOPED. OVER THE YEARS SUCH LARGE ITALIAN FIRMS SUCH AS ENI, FIAT AND MONTEDISON HAVE CONCLUDED

AGREEMENTS TO BUILD PLANTS IN BULGARIA. MONTEDISON AND ENI HAVE THEIR OWN LONG TERM COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTERPART BULGARIAN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS. ALSO, ITALY IS BULGARIA'S MOST IMPORTANT NON COMMUNIST INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIER. THE NEW ACCORD REAFFIRMS THE DESIRE OF BOTH PARTIES TO INCREASE THEIR COLLABORATION IN CERTAIN SECTORS. BY ESTABLISHING A MIXED COMMISSION THE ACCORD WILL ALSO SERVE TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND CONTACTS BETWEEN TRADE OFFICIALS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, THUS THE NEW MIXED COMMISSION WILL TAKE OVER ONE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF A MIXED COMMISSION PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY THE ITALIAN-BULGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES AT THE END OF 1974. TO FURTHER INCREASE CONTACTS, WHICH THE ITALIANS CONSIDER PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN FACILITATING DEALING WITH THE STATE TRADING BUREAUCRACIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, ITALIAN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT VARIOUS JOINT ITALIAN-BULGARIAN "WORKING GROUPS" OF TECHNICIANS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS WILL BE CALLED TOGETHER PERIODICALLY TO WORK OUT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE MIXED COMMISSIONS. BEAUDRY

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